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2. — *A Sketch of the Life and Character of Sir Robert Peel.* By SIR LAWRENCE PEEL. London : Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1860. 16mo. pp. 314.

THOUGH Sir Lawrence Peel was a near kinsman of the subject of this memoir, he claims, and we think justly, to be "free from those disturbing causes, arising from family and party connection, which too often convert the biography of a statesman into a panegyric and a satire." Younger by several years than the great man whose life and character he commemorates, and having had little direct intercourse with him,—trained in a different political school, sedulously devoting himself to the study of the law to the exclusion of all political ambition, and passing the last ten years of Sir Robert Peel's life in a remote part of the empire,—he has written with a degree of impartiality which no one perhaps could have attained who stood in closer personal relations with his kinsman, or who mingled more largely in the turmoil of party warfare. He does not, indeed, add anything to our knowledge of Sir Robert Peel; he corrects only one or two unimportant mistakes of previous writers, while his own narrative is singularly deficient as to details,—even the dates of Peel's birth and death being omitted; and his style is often turgid and inelegant. But he writes with great candor and moderation; and even as to those disputed points on which there is room for a difference of opinion, we gladly recognize the fairness of his arguments. On not a few questions he dissents from the policy of his kinsman, and inclines toward the Whigs; and on these topics he does not hesitate to express his views with great frankness. At the same time he never fails to do justice to the rectitude of Sir Robert's intentions. To persons who are already familiar with the facts of Sir Robert's life, the volume will be welcome, as a judicious estimate of his character and principles, rather than as a satisfactory biography.

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3. — *A Second Series of Vicissitudes of Families.* By SIR BERNARD BURKE, Ulster King of Arms, Author of "The Peerage and Baronetage," "The Landed Gentry," etc. London : Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1860. 12mo. pp. 438.

THE papers in Sir Bernard Burke's new volume are shorter and more homogeneous than those in his former collection, though his plan is the same in both volumes. The subjects now examined are drawn for the most part from Irish and Scotch biography, and they present many very curious and striking illustrations of the reverses of family